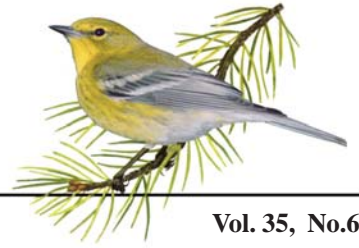


The Pine Warbler



September, 2015

Vol. 35, No.6

Heart Happenings

Another nesting season has come and gone. More Kemp's ridley nests were found on the Texas Coast and also in Mexico but still not as many as before the BP oil spill. Nestings were found on the Texas Coast as follows:



Kemp's Ridley Turtle

159 nests have been confirmed on the Texas
next page

Big Stone Lodge

PWWS meetings are held at the Big Stone Lodge at the new Dennis Johnston County Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road.

The directions to get there are much the same as to the Nature Center. Aldine-Westfield turns into Riley Fuzzel Road just northeast of Spring so there are several ways to get there.

1. Take the Rayford/Sawdust exit and go East (right) on Rayford Rd. It dead ends at Riley Fuzzel, then turn South (right) and drive to the Dennis Johnston Park past Spring Creek and on the right. or, 2. take Spring-Cypress east to Aldine Westfield through Olde Town Spring, turn left and then on to Riley Fuzzel for a short distance and turn left; or, 3. Take Aldine Westfield north from Mercer Arboretum until it turns into Riley Fuzzel. Turn right and watch for the Dennis Johnston Park on the left.

NO MEETINGS ON TUESDAYS – CHANGING TO WEDNESDAYS!

Starting with the September meeting, PWWS will meet every third Wednesday (except June, July and August) at the Big Stone Lodge at Dennis Johnston Park <<http://www.hcp4.net/ccenters/info.htm>> . It is located at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road in Spring just 0.2 miles east of the Hardy Toll Road, before you get to the Spring Creek Bridge (see directions and map below). This location is located a half mile west of our previous meeting location (Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center).

The meetings get underway at 7 p.m. with snacks and social time beginning at 6:30 p.m. Our upcoming meetings dates are September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16 of 2015. Please join us!

September 16th Wednesday Program

All You Ever Wanted To Know About Snakes And Were Afraid To Ask with Al Barr

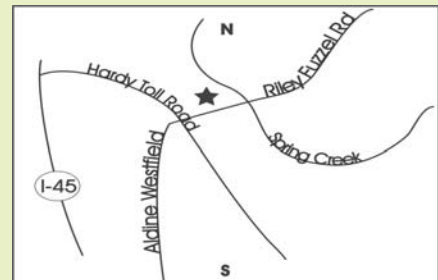


Don't miss our September 16 (Wednesday) - Al Barr's presentation will be "All you ever wanted to know about snakes and were afraid to ask." He will give a talk and slideshow on local snakes, habitat, and how to avoid them. If you cannot avoid them, Al will tell us what to do if you find yourself in close encounter. He will bring a live corn snake (non-venomous) as well as reference books on snakes of Texas.



September 16th
Social 6:30pm
Program 7:00pm

Big Stone Lodge
Dennis Johnston Park
709 Riley Fuzzel Road



Heart from page 1

coast including (north to south in state):

- 5 Bolivar Peninsula
- 3 Galveston Island
- 1 Brazoria County, N. of Surfside
- 1 Surfside Beach
- 1 Quintana Beach
- 2 Bryan Beach
- 3 Matagorda Peninsula
- 3 Mustang Island
- 106 North Padre Island, including 101 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 34 South Padre Island



In addition, 8 loggerhead nests and 4 green sea turtle nests were found (none on the Upper Texas Coast).

My friend, Jaime Pena, at the Gladys Porter Zoo helping at the Mexican nesting camps, reported that 13,924 nests were found at 6 locations on the Mexican Gulf Coast with 598,875 hatchlings released. (The total nests is down from 20,000 before the oil spill in 2010. (Keep in mind that only about 1 hatchlings out of 1000 survive to adulthood.)

On a Texas history drive in July, the Rolling Stones (Steven, Jane, Abigail, Spencer and Grambo Carole Allen) visited the Padre Island National Seashore to see the release of 109 hatchlings. Hundreds of people travel there to see these early morning releases. This would happen if we were allowed to have releases on Galveston Island as we have suggested for years.

**It's Purple Martin Time
Purple Martin Roost Watch Party
Saturday, September 12th, at 8 p.m.
By Claire Moore**



Each fall, purple martins all over the eastern U.S. gather in huge roosts in the evenings to spend the night in the safety of numbers. They probably do this because they are very social birds and also because these large roosts provide protection from predators.

The purple martins from our region have used several different locations in the Houston area over the past years, but they always seem to pick a place with oak trees and with bright street lights. Their latest roosting spot is the Fountains Shopping Center in Stafford in the oak trees in front of Sports Authority located at 12730 Fountain Lake Circle. The roost starts building in numbers in July with numbers peaking at hundreds

of thousands of birds – the latest estimate is 300,000 purple martins! The evening roost continues through mid-September until the purple martins decide that it is time to head south to spend their winter in Brazil.

Each evening in July, August and early September, the purple martins start gathering in the general area of their roost. Then, when it gets closer to dusk, they start swirling around moving in closer to the oak trees that they have picked as their group roost. After 30 or 45 minutes, they all come to rest shoulder-to-shoulder on the branches of the oak trees and settle in for the night.

The Houston Audubon Society sponsors several Purple Martin Watch Parties in July, August and September. The last watch party for 2015 is on September 12th meeting up in the parking lot of the Sports Authority at 8 p.m. at 12730 Fountain Lake Circle. Get the latest information in this watch party at <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/> <<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/>> and click on "Purple Martin Watch Parties" on the right side of the web page. It's a great spectacle and worth a trip down to Stafford.

If you'd like to arrive early for more interesting bird activity, it is recommended to arrive around 7 p.m. in the parking lot at the east end of the lake located in Gordon Fountain Lake Park (10897 Fountain Lake Drive). The purple martins swoop down low on the lake to get a drink of water before going into the roost for the night. At about 7:45 p.m., you should move over to the parking lot of Sports Authority at 12730 Fountain Lake Circle to watch the martins swirl into the oak trees there for the evening.

Notes:

Diane Cabiness recently suffered a fall that required hip surgery. She will be recovering for up to six months. If you would like to drop her a card or send an e-mail, please do. Her address is: 16889 Rabon Chapel Road, Montgomery, TX 77316 or e-mail dianecabinessplants@consolidated.net

Beebalm, *by Kathy Dodge*

No matter the name it goes by, beebalm, horsemint and lemon mint among them, this wildflower attracts a variety of pollinators with flowers that range from lavender to white.

Leaves are useful, too. They can be crushed and used as an insect repellent or brewed into a tea.

Light: Sun

Size: 2 to 3 feet tall

Water: Drought tolerant

Bloom: May through July

Cultivation: Sow seed in fall

Latin name: Monarda Citriodora



Hummingbird Plants & Migration

by Kathy Dodge

The Hummingbirds are coming! They will be looking for “food” in your gardens. Be prepared this season with suet, nectar and hummingbird feeders. Don’t forget your hummingbird plants, too. Below are a few favorites for our winged friends!

FOR SUN

Agastache	Jatropha
Almond Verbena	Lantana
Bottlebrush	Pentas
Cigar Plant	Pentapetes
Coral Bean	Pomegranate
Duranta	Pride of Barbados
Echinacea/Cone Flower	Red Rocket Russelia
Esperanza	Salvia Coccinea
Fairy Duster	Salvia Greggii
Firecracker Fern	Texas Star Hibiscus
Heliconia	Tangerine Crossvine
Hibiscus	Thryallis
Hummingbird Bush (Hamelia)	



FOR PART SUN/SHADE

Abutilon	Firespike
Cardinal Flower	Pink Plume Flower
Cat Whiskers	Porterweed
Cedar Sage	Red Shrimp Plant
Firecracker	Turk’s Cap
Jacobinia	



Rat Snake - Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

2013/14 Board of Directors

- President.....Kathy Coward
- 1st Vice President.....Open
- 2nd Vice President.....Claire Moore
- 3rd Vice President.....Carlos Hernandez
- Secretary.....Carole Frascella
- Treasurer.....Jim Lacey
- Director.....Terry Wilson
- DirectorJudy Springer
- DirectorFarrar Stockton
- Past President.....Al Barr

Numbers of Interest

Heart Hotline..... 281 444-6204

The Pine Warbler is published monthly, September through May, by The Piney Woods Wildlife Society, Inc. and Copperhead Publishing.

For membership information write to us at P.O. Box 189, Spring Texas 77383-0189. Annual Dues: \$15.00 per household.

Publisher: Copperhead Publishing
Publish1@copperheadfarms.net or
jdfagm@swbell.net.



P.O. Box 131776, The Woodlands, TX 77393

The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the previous month, earlier if possible. Always add “PWWS” in the subject line. All emails will be responded to within 3 days. If you do not receive a response please call 832 717-3276. All articles are subject to approval by the PWWS Board.

Please send all new address changes and any corrections to cdmoore3@gmail.com (Claire Moore) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.

Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>